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May 29, 2003

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
2142 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims
Committee on the Judiciary
2435 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Conyers and Ranking Member Jackson-Lee:

I write in response to your letter dated May 21, 2003 regarding the possible misuse of Department of Homeland Security resources in the recent Texas redistricting controversy.

Pursuant to § 4 of H. Res. 5, the Select Committee on Homeland Security has direct jurisdiction over matters having to do with the internal structure and management of the Department of Homeland Security. Based on that, I believe that the matters contained within your letter most directly fall within the jurisdiction of that Committee. Moreover, I do not believe that the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over "[s]ubversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States" properly encompasses these matters. Rule X(1)(k)(18) of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Therefore, I do not believe that it would be appropriate for this Committee to hold a hearing on this matter.

I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,



F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Chairman